

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of April 21, 2008.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial reconsideration.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Leviton reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,965,879). Similarly, the Office Action rejected Claims 4 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Leviton reference and rejected Claims 6-15, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Leviton reference in view of the Hinckley reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,844,871).

Apparently, the Office Action expansively interprets a pattern on the edge of the encoder top surface of the Leviton reference as being a circumferential skirt. The Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to col. 5, lines 60-61 of the Leviton reference wherein the reference states that the encoder pattern uses polar coordinates as opposed to Cartesian coordinates. It is clear from this passage that the pattern is on the top or bottom surface of the disk, not on the side.

This is quite different from the presently claimed invention wherein the skirt is formed "substantially perpendicular to said top surface" as recited in newly amended Claim 1. By providing the skirt as claimed, the sensor can be mounted on the side, rather than over the top surface, thereby freeing the top surface to allow the user to more fully simulate the action of manipulating a vinyl record. It is respectfully submitted that this is neither taught nor suggested by the Leviton reference. It is further respectfully submitted that nothing in the secondary reference (Hinckley) that would teach or suggest such a modification to the Leviton reference.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that this rejection is overcome.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending

claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of the claims, to enter the amendment, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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